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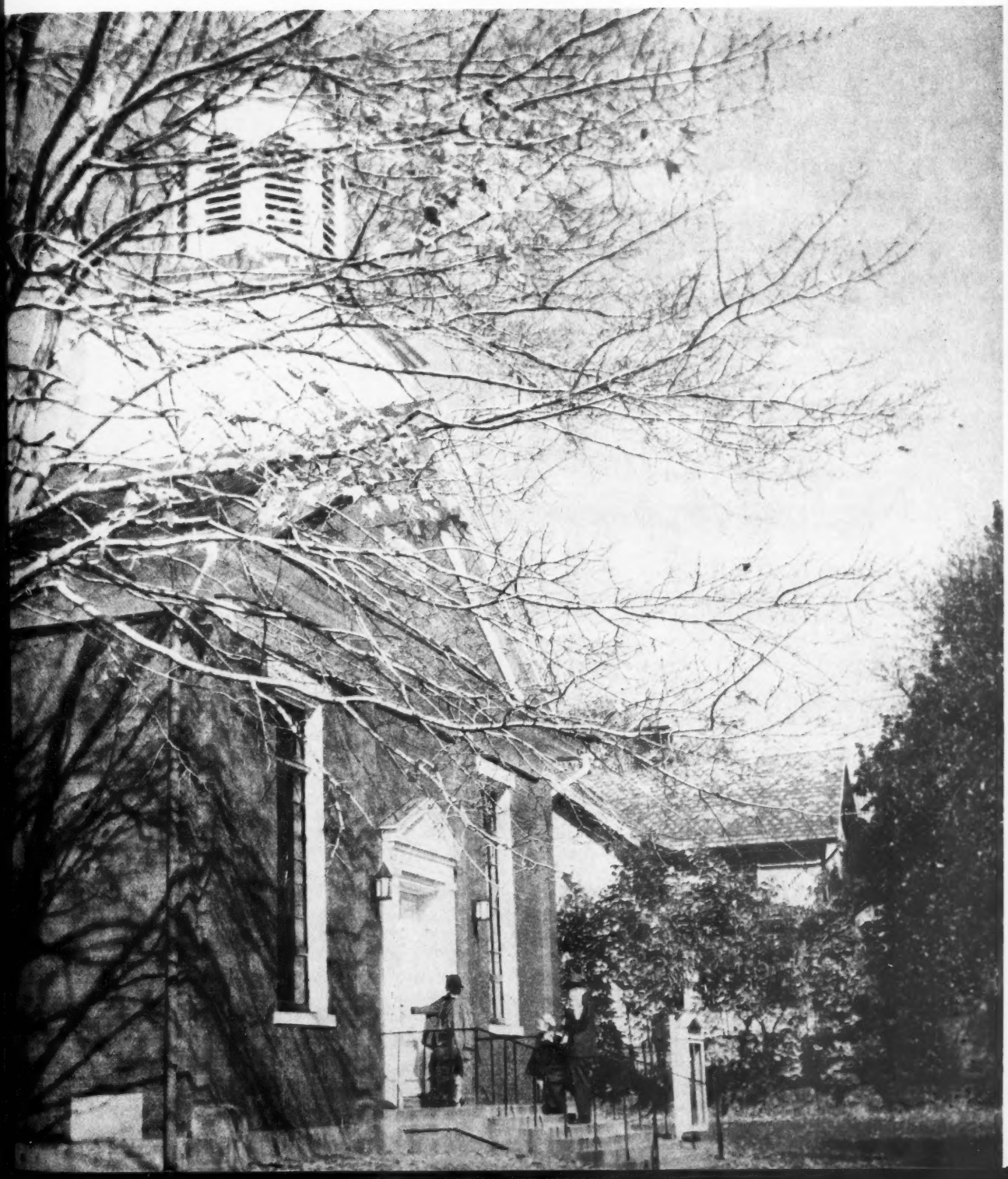

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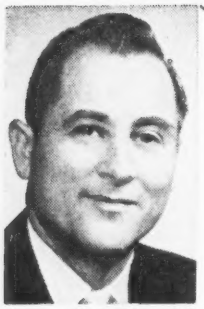

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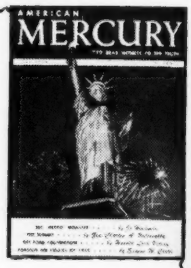

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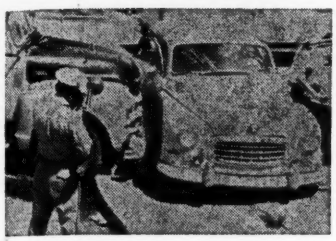

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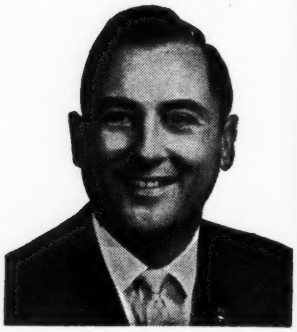
Publisher's Comment

Prayer Power



BY GWYNNE W. DAVIDSON, D.D.
President
Defenders of the Christian Faith, Inc.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. —James 5:16

RECENTLY I READ ABOUT a man who attempted to shatter a huge boulder with a sledge hammer. He brought the sledge down upon the rock with great force, but it merely bounced off, leaving the boulder as sound as before. Again and again he swung the sledge. He put all of his strength into it, seemingly with no result. He paused every now and then to wipe his perspiring brow and to get a new grip on the sledge handle.

His efforts seemed futile. What could he hope to accomplish in the expenditure of such energy? *But the man had faith. He believed in the power of the sledge.* He believed that if he kept at it he would eventually shatter the rock. He kept pounding away with no thought of discouragement. "Something has got to give," he told himself repeatedly.

So he kept at it. And at last came one more blow and the work was done. The boulder lay in fragments at his feet.

DEFENDER FRIEND, that is the manner in which we ought to use prayer. James tells us that the earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power. We ought to believe and act upon it with the same confidence the man had in the power of his sledge hammer. And with the same persistence.

Jesus often stressed the power of prayer. He spoke many times of the abounding promises to those who pray "as they ought."

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ... Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. ... And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint. ... Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy might be full. ... If ye abide in me, and my words in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

"BUT HOW DO I KNOW that my prayers are consistent with God's will?" someone asks.

We can settle this problem of knowing the will of God. The Bible makes it crystal-clear that everything Jesus said and did was the manifest will of God. In other words, *God's will was unveiled in Jesus.*

Several times in the Gospels, Jesus said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me."

If we look closely at the life of Jesus, if we study all that He said and did, and if we believe and pray accordingly, we may be sure that our prayers are in harmony with God's will. Remember this: The will of God is always consistent with the character of Jesus, with what He taught and did, for Jesus was the will of God unveiled.

A prophetic pattern in cataclysmic changes

LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE

BY HUGH MALCOLM

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. —II Peter 1:19

THIS GENERATION has witnessed the inception of vast revolutionary changes of a political, economic and social character. These changes are sufficiently extensive and distressing to shake the composure of serious-minded men everywhere.

"The course of history, if continued at its present pace, might very well result in the end of history," said Arnold J. Toynbee, noted historian.

Speaking this summer to an audience of 4,000 people in Denver, Colorado, on the topic, "Does History Make Sense?" Toynbee said, "Little hope exists for the world apart from a revitalized faith which could lead mankind to beliefs beyond "man worship."

However one regards Toynbee and his philosophy, he cannot be dismissed merely as a prophet of doom or a hypochondriac. Not unless one chooses to ignore the obvious. Only superficial minds remain impervious to the cataclysmic changes taking place in society.

Despite the uncertainties and confusion which prevail in this hour, Bible students see a prophetic pattern in these changes. The world process, even though lashed by furious tides, is not moving aimlessly or inexorably toward total chaos, but has meaning, significance and continuity. Events are taking place as foretold in Bible prophecy.

Consider, for example, how feverishly men are working to establish a one-world government, which Scripture implicitly describes as an age-end development.

A LEADER in this movement in the United States is Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — a powerful and enigmatic figure in Washington whose utterances and actions seem more opposed to anti-Communism than to Communism. In a recent speech, he called for a greater unity among nations and declared that nations "must surrender far more of their jealously guarded sovereignty than they already have done and press forward with the development of supernational institutions."

Fulbright's idea is of course that a world government, based upon international law, is the only answer to world peace. He thinks that to save mankind from annihilation, the nations of the world must join together in a universal peace pact.

Whether the Senator knows it or not, his designs for a world political union fit precisely into an end-time prophetic pattern. According to Scripture, one of the signs of the age-end is a universal clamor for peace in an era of wars and rumors of wars and of threatening world destruction.

Any hope that such an organization might hold out to mankind is a false hope. Being fabricated from humanistic blueprints and leaving God out of the council chambers, it is foreordained to ignominious failure.

Concerning the end result of this humanistic peace movement, the Word of God warns us thus: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, we have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (I Thessalonians 5:1-3.)

STUDENTS OF PROPHECY see in the present United Nations the em-

(*Please turn the page*)

Thanksgiving

Heap high the board with plenteous cheer, and gather to the feast,
And toast the sturdy Pilgrim band whose courage never ceased.
Give praise to that All-Gracious One by Whom their steps were led,
And thanks unto the harvest's Lord who sends our "daily bread."

bryo, or stage setting, for the coming one world supergovernment.

From its inception, the United Nations has been utterly godless. In difference to Russia, and to certain pagan nations, Churchill and Roosevelt entered into a covenant to omit recognition of God and His Christ from deliberations of the United Nations. That is why no session of the Security Council, General Assembly, or any committee, has ever opened with prayer. The United Nations has no chaplain.

To some, who have followed its gyrations, and measured its effectiveness, the U.N. is likened to a "Tower of Babel" — serving mostly to confound issues and as a sounding board for atheistic Communism.

Despite its fumbling, tumult and "shoe pounding," there is evidence that the U.N. is determining U.S. foreign policy. Our State Department and Supreme Court, to name two of many examples, are adopting policies and rendering decisions in accordance with the intent and purpose of the United Nations Charter and its implementation.

The situation with Red China is another instance of how U.S. leadership has bowed to the leadership at Lake Success. "The overwhelming sentiment in this country is against the entry of Red China into the U.N.," writes a veteran observer. "But administration leaders already have admitted defeat on this and few of us will be surprised to see the Peiping government seated."

As the Apostle Peter wrote, the "more sure word of prophecy" is a bright and cheering lamp amid the world's darkness. Little wonder that thoughtful and serious-minded men and women are turning more and more to Bible study, and particularly the examination of prophecy.

Pascal, the French genius, once said, "In the Holy Scriptures we find true prediction, and we find it nowhere else."

Evangelical Christians on the whole subscribe to this truth. Prophecy, to be sure, is the mark of infallibility which sets the Bible apart from other literature. Neither the sacred books of major religions, nor classical literature gives any light on human destiny.

Jesus relied upon the prophecies of the Old Testament, and their fulfillment in Himself, as confirmation of His claim. In fact, He taught that all prophetic strands of Bible revelation converge on Him. "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." (Luke 24:44.) Jesus spoke

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Watchword of His Church

BY HEROLD DER WAHRHEIT

Earnestly looking forward to the Second Coming of Christ affects every area of Christian living

The Second Coming of Christ is one of the headlines interwoven throughout the Word of God in bold letters. It is not prominent enough to overshadow Calvary, but there is enough to add a gilt-edged finishing touch to every letter in the message of Redemption. The Cross is the indisputable center on which time and eternity hinge. But Christ's Second Coming is the latchstring by which the door is opened.

"Christ is Coming" is the watchword of His Church. Nearly 1900 years ago the inspired penman wrote, "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Hebrews 10:37). The Lord Himself declared, "Surely I come quickly."

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Only when our "life is hid with Christ in God" are we ready for our Lord's return.

Earnestly looking forward to the Second Advent of Christ affects every area of the Christian's life.

1. *It eases earthly cares.* Material things become not only secondary but completely subservient to Kingdom causes. Herds and flocks, farms and bank accounts become means of supplying money for the Lord's work. Our physical and mental energies will be used unselfishly and unsparingly for spiritual causes, instead of solely for personal interests.

2. *It nurtures Christian patience.* "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7). Positive assurance of His coming makes patience easier, for we wait with joyful expectation. "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:7).

3. *It is an incentive to holy living.* "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12, 13). If you really expected your Lord tonight, just how would you spend your evening?

4. *It sharpens our sense of stewardship.* Nothing is ours indefinitely. Even we are not our own. I Corinthians 6:19. The Lord has loaned us many things, saying, "Occupy till I come." At His return we cease to occupy. Then we give account of how we occupied during our short term of stewardship.

5. *It stimulates faithfulness.* "But

often of His "hour." He went through life with a sense of prophetic timing in all that He said and did.

Prophecy, certainly, has had its abuse. For this reason, reliable elements among evangelicals approach the subject with caution. To them, "prophecy is pre-written history," but with some reservations. The definiteness of history is not always the case with prophecy, for it combines both the obscure and the clear. With conservative Christians, date setting is suspect.

No honest student of prophecy seeks to exchange faith for sight. Neither is he a fatalist. Enough of the future is revealed to enable him to see the shape of things to come, and to prove the message is from God. As Sir Isaac Newton put it, "Prophecy is not given to make men prophets, but as a witness to God when it is fulfilled."

---

thou, O man of God, . . . fight the good fight of faith, . . . I give thee charge in the sight of God, . . . that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Timothy 6:11-14). No one wants to be caught shirking when Jesus comes!

6. *It dispels overhanging gloom.* Being ready for the Lord's return, and living in constant expectation of it, leaves no time nor mood for brooding over threatening gloom. With global powers snarling fiercely at one another, we can expect worldwide catastrophe at almost any moment. But the darkest hour is just before dawn. Therefore "stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8).

At every turn of the road we see signs pointing to the Second Coming of Christ. Nothing approaches more rapidly than the day of our Lord's return. God has circled the date on His calendar. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20).

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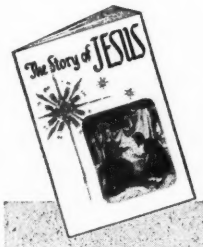

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Christianity-- a Dynamic or Dying Force?

BY DR. GEORGE M. LAMSA

A famous Bible translator and historian offers a sobering study of Christianty past and present

SPIRITUAL TIDES SET in motion on the day of Pentecost moved across the world for three centuries, reversing the currents of history and bringing a new hope and order to mankind.

But with the conversion of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century A.D., these tides began to recede. The once potent spiritual force of the Church of Jesus Christ was weakened by strange teachings, rivalry, greed and material things. Finally, the Byzantine emperors made the Church an instrument of the State in their vain attempts to conquer the world. Christian doctrines and teachings no longer were promulgated by pious men — men who hitherto had been willing to carry their crosses and to die for their Lord; men who were imbued with the Pauline concept that love was the greatest virtue—the sum total of their obligation to God and to man.

Consequently, the fervent zeal to spread the gospel of Christ subsided. Man-made teachings supplanted what was taught on the shores of Galilee. The picture of Christianity changed; the people who had seen the light began to see darkness.

Preachers of the gospel were no longer found on highways and byways seeking the lost sheep; nor were they in prisons because of the new doctrine; nor were they witnessing for Jesus before judges and governors and the princes of this world. No. Now they were at ease; now they themselves were the princes and the lords of this world, living in luxury and imperial palaces, surrounded by servants and high officials.

Now the Christians, instead of going another mile, compelled the others to go many miles and to bear heavy burdens. Instead of being persecuted for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, they themselves were persecuting those who slightly disagreed with them in matters of doctrine. Moreover, the work of the conversion of millions of people who were waiting to hear the good news of the gospel was left to imperial edicts enforced by ungodly and cruel commissioners and government officials. Alas, the simple gospel of Jesus Christ practically became a closed book.

Such was the state of Christianity in the fourth century A.D. and such were the changes which subverted the purposes which Jesus had in coming into the world and in establishing His Church.

THE DECLINE OF THE Church had been slow but steady, so that not a single generation had seen it or even felt it. It may be compared to a slow geological erosion. No person living in the fourth or even the fifth century A.D. could have believed that another religion or new ideology could replace Christianity in the Near East, Middle East or Far East — in the very lands in which it was born and nurtured. No one in the sixth century could have dreamt that the Crescent, the Moslem banner, could replace the Cross in the Holy Land, in Asia and Africa; *but it did.*

About two centuries after the death of Constantine, both the Church and biblical lands fell before the forces of Islam, who had sworn to die in battle on behalf of a religion which summoned the people to do away with idolatry, corruption and to turn to the one God, His prophets and His holy books.

Christians in Europe and Greece were jubilant over the fall of the Church of the East. Not only did they refuse to help their Christian brethren but they themselves persecuted them; confiscated their churches in the Holy Land, Egypt and other places, which had come under the imperial rule. They forced millions of harassed Christians to take refuge in Arabia and Iran. Morever, in Iraq, Syria, Northern Arabia, Iran and the Far East, millions of Christians turned to Islam rather than surrender to imperial Christianity and accept the image worship and the teachings which were contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible. In the 15th century A.D. Greek Christians were measured with the same measure by the Moslem Turks, who became the successors of the corrupt Byzantine empire.

Now the day of reckoning, or the day of vengeance, has come. Today Europe is trembling, not so much with fear of the steady advance of Islamic forces which threatened it centuries ago, but because of the fear of a new and militant ideology, a godless religion based on human philosophies. Communism is a religion sweeping the world with fervent forces and sacrifices. It is an ideology embraced by people with a zeal and devotion comparable to that of first century Christians. That is to say, Communists are willing to die for what they believe.

And now, the time has come to face facts; to re-examine the past and the grim prospects of the future. In the past 40 years, we have witnessed the relentless power and the amazing growth of Communism in lands supposedly Christian. In cities dotted with the spires of churches and costly cathederals, we have seen more than a billion people turn toward Communism and we still see country after country, one way or another, falling under its influence.

This is not all. Christianity is no longer practiced as it once was practiced. Its message is diluted. Its commandments are no longer incorporated in the doctrines and teachings of those who have assumed His name.

The great mass of people know Christianity only as a system. They never come to know Christ as a living Person.

Unfortunately, millions of people in Asia and Africa look upon Christianity as a Western institution devoid of the teachings of early Christianity, which stemmed from the East. They are under the impression that Western Christianity is backed by Western power and finance. Indeed, this is the consensus of opinion in the Near East.

This suspicion started when Western Christianity changed its status from a fellowship of believers into a State religion presided over by princes, kings and worldly bishops. Many of these Eastern people have forgotten that Christianity was born and nursed in the Eastern soil and that the Founder and His disciples were all Easterners. They do not know that Christianity was meant to remove the barriers that divide people. As the Apostle Paul declared, "For he [Christ] is our peace . . . and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain [Jew and Gentile] one new man, so making peace. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enemity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone."

Now, suppose you were born in Palestine, Syria or Iraq. Would you identify the present Christian movements in those lands with the teachings of the man of compassion from the hills of Galilee? Would you ever dream that such an aggressive and militaristic religion could have roots

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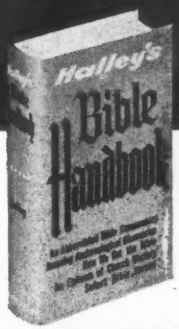

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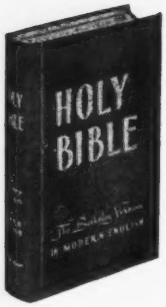

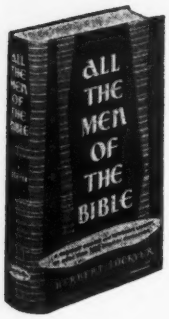

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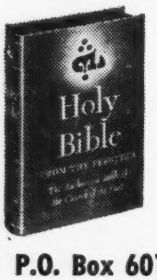

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in what Jesus of Nazareth taught and exemplified? You, if you were born in the Near East, would identify the present Christianity with the Western powers, with the Byzantine empire and with Rulers of Europe. This is because you would not see any man going another mile or praying for his enemies, or turning the other cheek or agreeing with his adversary without going to court. Instead you would see the doctrine of the tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. And the people, instead of changing their swords into plowshares, are changing their plowshares into destructive weapons.

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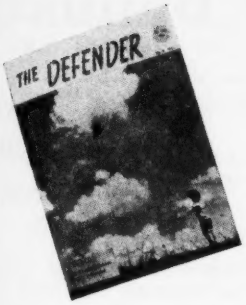
(*Please turn to page 18*)



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Eloquence or Enthusiasm in Soul-Winning?

The magic of enthusiasm is not something inherent — it can and must be acquired

BY GERALD S. POPE

A CONTEMPORARY MAGAZINE writer speaks of the "dismal state" into which evangelistic Christianity has drifted in late years. Why? Simply because of an overemphasis upon the glamorous, instead of reliance upon the time-tested, heavy-duty, down-to-earth qualities of spiritual testimony.

I find this undue stress upon personality has created an awful fear complex among many believers who excuse themselves from witnessing for Christ on the grounds they are not fitted to win souls. The plain truth is that if you desire to be of service to God, you can and will become an effective soul-winner.

Someone has observed, "If you can win a friend to yourself, you can also win that friend to Christ."

The young man who seeks to persuade a young lady to become his bride furnishes an example of what you need in soul-winning more than you need eloquence. He is in dead earnest, puts his whole heart into what he says, and speaks with a burning enthusiasm. To be sure, these qualities are more apt to captivate the heart of the young lady than a flowery speech.

Emerson said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

I recently interviewed a man who claims to be an agnostic and who told me that the great impression the gospel made upon him was the enthusiasm of some Christian people whom he knew personally. He said he had asked quite a number of them, pointedly, if they were really happy and contented in their faith, and the answer he got was not a lackadaisical yes, but a yes with an exclamation point behind it.

One authority tells us that enthusiasm is taken from two Greek words, *en* and *theos,* literally meaning "in God" or "God in us." I can think of no one to whom this would apply more than to the soul-winner. Deep conviction about the loss of a soul ignites within him an inner flame of sincerity and enthusiasm that is contagious. At all times, of course, the soul-winner is dependent upon the Holy Spirit for anointing, power and wisdom.

Success in the sales field is attributed to enthusiasm more than to any other factor. One salesman, for example, may be academic; that is, he knows the subject of life insurance fom A to Z, still he lags behind his colleagues in volume of sales. Another salesman, nowhere near the authority on the subject as the other man, but a human dynamo when it comes to enthusiasm, tops the sales list in his office. The magic of enthusiasm is not something inherent. It can and must be acquired, for it often spells the difference between success or failure.

As a soul-winner, what you may lack in gifted speaking can be overcome in the show of heartfelt enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is not noise but a conviction that reveals itself in your eyes, your voice and your mannerism. I challenge you to start out tomorrow, and be ten times more enthusiastic than you have ever been, and see if it doesn't work wonders.

TO INSIST THAT YOU NEED to be an ordained preacher before you win souls is almost as ridiculous as to ask the coach to play the field while the players remain on the bench. It is surprising, though, the number of people who think soul-winning is exclusively the task of the pulpit. A church member of long standing told a relative of mine that the Christian's sole job was to get the sinner to church so the preacher could get him saved.

Such an idea is, of course, to reverse proven and accepted principles in other fields. No politician, for example, could ever hope to be elected were he to depend solely upon his oratory or personal appeal. These things only serve to arouse enthusiasm. The campaign is won by the precinct worker who rings doorbells and buttonholes the individual voter. There is no substitute for personal work. Jesus Himself exemplified this truth. He preached His great sermon on the New Birth and on Eternal Life to one individual. He gave His best for one soul. The Church must recapture this example, if it is ever to win the world to Christ.

Scripturally speaking, neither you nor I, nor any other believer, are exempt from witnessing, however, limited the opportunity may be. "Every Christian, no matter how humble, can win somebody else to Christ." Thus spoke Dr. George W. Truettt in his famous sermon, "A Quest for Souls," and in this connection told a most touching and instructive story.

He said that a preacher of his acquaintance, Dr. O. P. Gifford, of Boston, made this same statement one morning to his congregation. After the benediction, one of the members tarried behind in order to speak to the pastor.

"Pastor," she said bluntly, "this was the first time I ever heard you when you seemed unfair." Naturally the pastor asked for an explanation.

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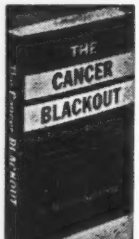

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win somebody to Christ. Now, you did not make any exceptions, and surely I am an exception. Pray, tell me what could I do? I am but a poor seamstress, and I sew early and late to get enough to keep the wolf from the door for my fatherless children, and I have no education and no opportunity, and yet your statement was so sweeping that even I was included."

The pastor asked a relatively simple question, "Does anybody ever come to your house?"

"Why, certainly, a few people come there."

"A word to the wise is sufficient." And with these words, Dr. Gifford left her.

SHE WENT HOME, pondered the matter all day, and slept little that night. It dawned on her that she had never even tried to win anybody to Christ. She determined to seize upon the first opportunity which would be the milkman in the morning. Accordingly she was up early and waiting.

He greeted her with a casual remark, "My, you're up earlier than usual. What gets you out this time of morning?" She stammered out some reply, but not what she had intended to say. And then he was gone.

"Wait a minute," she pleaded, calling after him. "I did have something to say to you." As he listened, she unburdened her heart. "Do you know Christ? Are you a Christian? Are you a friend and follower of that glorious Saviour who came down from heaven and died, that you might have Eternal Life?"

Anguish was written in his face. "Little woman, what on earth provoked you to talk to me like this? For two nights I have not been able to sleep, and the burden of it all is that I am not a Christian, and I am in the darkness. If you know how to find the light, you are the one that I need, and you should tell me."

In her simple way, she told him the plan of salvation, and he opened his heart and received Christ as his personal Saviour. Before the year was out, the little seamstress won seven adults to Christ.

So, no matter who you are or what your position in life may be, you can win somebody to Christ.

SOUL-WINNING, in many instances, cannot wait upon preaching services. For example, the telephone exploded in my ear at three o'clock in the morning, some years ago. The frantic voice on the other end of the wire pleaded with me to come immediately. She was in trouble.

My wife and I fairly flew to that home, where we found the young husband sitting at the kitchen table, a whiskey bottle in one hand and a loaded 38 caliber pistol in the other. He was threatening suicide because it was his way of freeing himself from the chains of habit he had forged in life. Thank God, we were able to help him. Again I say, there are some cases which will not wait for the preaching service.

Soul-winning can be done anywhere. Tom McManus, for example, a sailor lad of my acquaintance, led a buddy to Christ under the wing of a training plane at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. I have had men make decisions for Christ in the front seat of my automobile. With a colleague of mine, I was once invited into the home of a wealthy woman in Glendale, California, who accepted Jesus Christ after we had explained to her the way of salvation. Then again, I have witnessed in shacks no more than a level above a chicken coop which some impoverished people call home. I like many others have found that soul-winning can be done anywhere, among the rich or among the poor.

Herbert Lockyer, in a magazine article, expressed the *anywhereness* of witnessing very well. "Jesus' last commission to His own is a charge to reach individuals everywhere. Matthew (28:19) records the universal outlook, 'Go into all nations.' Mark (16:15) sets before us the personal aspect, 'to every creature.' Place these statements side by side and they speak of the necessity for every believer going into the little piece of the world for which he is responsible and preaching the gospel by lip and life to every creature."

The Worst Mistake You Can Make

BY NATHANAEL OLSON

WHAT IS THE WORST MISTAKE a man can make? This will tell you.

"He brushed his teeth twice a day. The doctors examined him twice a year. He wore his rubbers when it rained. He slept with the windows open. He got at least eight hours sleep every night. He never smoked, drank or lost his temper. He was all set to live to be 100. The funeral will be held Wednesday. He is survived by 18 specialists, four health institutions, and six gymnasiums.."

He forgot God, lived as if this world was all, and is now with those who say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20).

The most tragic mistake anyone can make is to forget God and His claims upon a life. Leaving Him out of your plans will certainly spell eternal ruin for you.

What happens when you take the wrong road while driving? You lose time, gas and patience. But you can always get back on the right road, can't you? Such is not the case traveling to heaven. The Bible warns: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Many ways which seem right, such as church membership, good deeds, trying to keep the Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments, without a personal faith in Christ, will lead to one destination: eternal death. Jesus alone is "The way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). If you miss the Jesus-road in this life, you can't get on it later. There are no detours after death. God says: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

IF YOU MAKE THE mistake of not properly caring for your teeth, the worst thing that can happen is that you lose them. But you can always get an artificial set.

Not so with your soul. If you let sins, habits, and Christ-rejection drive it to an endless hell, you can't get a new soul. There is no second chance. You have only one soul which will live forever in heaven's bliss or hell's torment. Your decision here makes its destiny final in the hereafter. Jesus asks you these solemn questions: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36,37).

You need not make the terrible mistake of rejecting the Saviour of your soul. Right now, you have the power to believe, You can say to the Lord Jesus Christ: "I accept Thee into my heart as my own personal Saviour." He will become your Saviour and make you a child of God. Here is His promise: "As many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Do you want forgiveness, joy, peace, and satisfaction? All these can be yours if:

You repent of all your sins.

You trust not in your own efforts or goodness, but in the blood of Jesus shed to pay for your sins.

You confess Christ as your Saviour before your friends and relatives.

You live daily for Him, reading your Bible and praying faithfully.

Sounds good? It is! All these wonderful things can happen to you if you will bow your head now and invite the Son of God into your life. Will you do it?

Remember, the only way you can avoid the worst mistake you can make is by taking the best step you can take. Believe and receive Jesus Christ — today!

(Note: Reprints of this article may be secured from the American Tract Society, 513 W. 166th Street, New York 32, N.Y.)

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My insurance expires: mo.____ da.___ yr.____

Make_____ yr.____ body type____

No. cylinders_____ Motor No._____

The Prayer Circle

COMPILED BY M. L. FLOWERS

Thanksgiving Day is near ... a day set aside as a holiday by custom and presidential decree, when both turkey and people are stuffed! But as a nation are we truly thankful for the great and precious gifts from His bountiful hand?

The human race fell into idolatry because, knowing God, "they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful ... and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:21-22). God grant we shall not become a nation of fools!

Tonight millions of persons in other parts of the world will go to bed hungry, but God has blessed our country with plenty for every need. This is because He trusts us to be faithful stewards. For this we owe Him a vast debt of gratitude. I shall pay mine with words of praise and thanksgiving; with giving of my substance to help spread His gospel; and by presenting my whole being as a living sacrifice, which is my reasonable service. Will you join me in this expression of thanksgiving?

O.G.S., Cass City, Michigan: Your letter makes me feel as though I have known you for some time, although not in person, but in spirit. How wonderful it is to know one another in this way.

L.H., Hurley, New Mexico: I really enjoyed your letter, the little poem, "Don't Quit" and **The Defender** magazine. Some times when we are pressed down with troubles, and it seems we can't go on, a good letter and spiritual literature always helps us and gives us determination.

W.E.J., Shreveport, Louisiana: O it's been a long time since you have heard a word or had a line from me but still I must say that I am a partner in prayer with you and one in the family — the Royal Family.

B.R., San Francisco, California: How we need publications like **The Defender** in these tragic days. I feel very keenly that our Lord is coming soon. But as we all know we must keep working until He comes.

E.N.L., Atlanta, Georgia: This latest issue of **The Defender** far surpasses any previous issue in wealth of material for the saved and unsaved and necessary information for readers everywhere in our great national crisis.

S.L.T., Greeley, Colorado: Please keep on publishing articles, editorials, etc., which inform your readers of the perils at hand in the field of religion, public health, education, etc. This is definitely a Christian service you can render, since our other media of information are withholding the facts from the American people.

H.H.S., Deep Gap, North Carolina: I am praying for your work and all others who are standing in the gap as you are! For 25 years or more **The Defender** has been a great help in my ministry. Thank God for it.

C.F., Worthington, Minnesota: I thank you for our Prayer Circle and for the prayers. Also for the message. I have read and re-read the magazine and feel that the dedicated standards of **The Defender** are still holding forth. God has given you a place in the frontlines of defense.

B.S., Dutton, Michigan: Your letter on the history of **The Defender** was interesting. I've clipped it and will file it away for keeps. I began taking the magazine when it was quite young. It must have been around 1927. Dr. Winrod had prophetical articles in it at that time. We had a minister who often preached on prophecy so of course those articles caught my attention.

I.R.H., Inglewood, California: Right you are, it is prayer and more prayer we need at this time throughout the world. Christian workers work hard, but things come much harder when there is so much will power all around, working against them.

I do so enjoy hearing from you. Indeed, at this same time, pray for spiritual strength to be given to us all, to see more clearly the light, truth and love, which our God gives us.

The Defender is always so welcome. When I finish reading it, I give it to my neighbor, who in turn passes it on to someone else.

1962 STANDARD LESSON COMMENTARY. Edited by Orrin Root and John W. Wade. (Standard Publishing Company, cloth binding, 448 pages, price $2.95.)

A most useful feature of this 1962 Commentary is the *Table of Contents*, showing on one page the titles of all 52 lessons by quarters, plus a list of all printed texts on the opposite page — "for the convenience of those who want a sound exposition and present-day application of a given passage of Scripture."

Each lesson, prepared by eminent Bible scholars, follows the pattern of the previous eight volumes in the Basic Lesson Treatment: Discussion and Application; Truth for Daily Living; Quotable Quotes; Pithy Points and Seeing the Lesson. This last item includes instructions for the class artist to present the lesson through the "eye-gate." Boxes set out the lesson aims, a suitable prayer, the lesson outline, and all the daily Bible references connotative to the subject. Each lesson is beautifully illustrated.

A bright orange jacket presents a coupon worth 55 cents when applied to the purchase of a set of the new Standard Bible Maps. This set of nine outline maps, 21 x 28 inches, mounted on a wood hanger with string, is a valuable aid in all divisions of the Bible School curriculum. The regular price is $2.50, but with this special offer is only $1.95.

TARBELL'S TEACHERS' GUIDE. Edited by Frank S. Mead. (Fleming H. Revell Company, cloth binding, 384 pages, price $2.95.)

This Guide, the 1962 number of Tarbell's, upholds, and even exceeds the standard of excellence maintained by this publication since it first appeared in 1906. It presents a wealth of sparkling illustrations gleaned from oustanding authors of past and present, leading ministers and contemporary literature.

Comparison of parallel texts may serve to clarify the meaning of some passages. Suggestions for teachers often highlight the teaching points and the theme of the lesson.

Defender Book Shelf

Another helpful section is the phonetic pronunciation guide to prevent stumbling over difficult words, such as Habakkuk, Hystaspes, and Carchemish. Can *you* pronounce them correctly?

Tarbell's firmly believes in the use of visual aids as real tools for successful teachers. One page is devoted to a discussion of their value, and more than nine pages to a list of available filmstrips, motion pictures, and records, for use with any or all of the 52 class sessions of 1962. The length of time, color, name and address of suppliers are specified, but not the cost.

HIGLEY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARY. (Lambert Huffman Publishers, cloth binding, 527 pages, price $2.95.)

In this, the 29th Higley Sunday School Commentary, the publishers have achieved that desire of all good teachers — an entirely new teaching aid.

Higley has been noted for its excellent verse by verse explanation of the lesson text; interest-catching illustrations; teaching suggestions geared to all levels of the Bible School; seed thoughts; keyed review questions; research and discussion topics.

And now the *pump primer!* At the end of each lesson is a perforated page with ten questions on one side and the answers on the other, to be detached and handed to class members the week before needed, so the person can prepare to talk when called on. This *pump primer* will draw unsuspected ideas from many who have been silent only because they did not know how to express their thoughts. Duplicate questions and answers are provided for the teacher's record. A page of instructions enables one to use this fine commentary more efficiently.

THE GIST OF THE LESSON. Edited by Donald T. Kauffman. (Fleming H. Revell Company, cloth binding, 128 pages, price $1.25.)

This attractive little volume is just about the prettiest and handiest thing in print for the casual Bible class member. Precisely the right size to fit in pocket or purse, it contains the salient points of all 52 lessons for 1962, with the complete text, a background treatment, exposition, and summary. The pronunciation system helps the student pronounce difficult words correctly, and a memory selection (Golden Text) challenges him to learn Scripture. Even the deepest student will appreciate the beauty and convenience of this small book.

When R. A. Torrey published the first *Gist* in 1899, his stated purpose was "To forward the belief in God as Creator, Christ as Saviour and Lord, the Holy Spirit as the source of power and victory, and the Bible as the Word of God." That purpose has been followed consistently by the publishers.

These volumes may be ordered from *The Defender*, Box 601, Oklahoma City 1, Oklahoma.

Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas has signed a contract for what promises to be one of the most important books to come out of Washington in many years. To be published in the late summer or early fall of 1962 by Duell, Sloan and Pearce, the Senator's book is tentatively entitled, "Crime Without Punishment" — a book the Senator hopes will arouse the moral feelings of the American people against the abuses uncovered by the McClellan committee.

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Sunday School Comments

Lesson One

November 19, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH SELF-DISCIPLINE

KEY WORD: Add

All growth is an addition – something must be added to something already there. Whether it is plant or animal, or whether in the physical, mental, or spiritual realm, when growth stops, decay starts.

With human beings, another factor in self-discipline must be considered – the willpower of the individual. During the Japanese-Chinese War two missionary families stationed near the border of Tibet were ordered home by the American government. Their only escape route led over high Himalayan passes to Burma. So extreme were the pressures of the journey that their tough mountain ponies fell down and died of exhaustion. But not the people. Men, women and small children made it through, not because they were physically stronger, but the combination of will power and a deep trust in God gave them the determination to overcome hardship.

Years later the leader of this group endured 16 months in a Communist prison. His life of self-discipline enabled him to endure the torture and brainwashing. Today he is recognized as one of the greatest of modern missionaries, having a record of many thousand souls won to Christ in China and Burma.

KEY VERSE: II Peter 1:3

"His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

Peter continues his argument by assuring us that God's Son made it possible through His example for us to escape the corruption of the world through knowing Him and cultivating the Christian virtues here enumerated. Such discipline of self does help one to partake of His divine nature. Not only does it promote growth in Christlikeness, but makes possible a dynamic influence for Christ in all our relationships with others. Christlike persons are soul-winners.

KEY FACT: Blind Christians are failures

Peter says that if you have added these Christian virtues "they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." But if self-interests take first place they bring on a state of blindness so that the person cannot see beyond the end of his nose, nor even imagine the abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Just to grab the glittering bauble of the present moment indicates that growth has ceased and decay of the spirit has set in.

Lesson Two

November 26, 1961

CONTINUING GROWTH

KEY WORD: Called

The Christian must "keep on keeping on." Ulysses, hero of the Trojan War, is represented by Tennyson as saying: "I cannot rest. . . . How dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnished, not to shine in use. As though to breathe were life . . . but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." This is a graphic picture of a growing Christian, constantly pressing forward unto Christlikeness.

Christian growth is a transformation from worldliness to spiritual ideals, by presenting the body as a living sacrifice, through a willing heart and consecrated mind giving itself in daily service.

Such service indicates that we, again like Ulysses who longed "to follow knowledge like a sinking star, beyond the utmost bounds of human thought," are striving to come into "the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Paul is persistent that Christians are a people "called with an holy calling, not according to our works." The blessings of God are not earned by good works, but works do follow as a matter of growth because we love Him. Such love is expressed by unselfish prayer (II Timothy 1:3), by study of His Word (II Timothy 2:15, 3:15-17), by loving service (Romans 12:10, 13), by aspiring to be like Him (II Timothy 1:8-9) and by keeping the faith (vs 13-14).

KEY VERSE: I Timothy 6:12

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

One modern version renders it,

Thanksgiving

I thank Thee for so many things —
Through autumn, winter, all the springs,
And summers, every day holds cause
For thankfulness. Then grant me pause
At each new silvering dawn to say:
This, Lord, is my Thanksgiving Day.

"Keep your grip on that life eternal to which you have been called."

The Word of God insists that our security lies in the fact that we "keep our grip" on Him and continue to "grow up in him in all things who is the head, even Christ." (Ephesians 4:15.) God recognizes His children through a family resemblance to His firstborn Son.

KEY FACT: The gift of God must be stirred up

Paul, in I Timothy 1:6, literally means that the fire of the Spirit which Timothy received "by the putting on of hands" (of Paul and the elders), must not be allowed to smolder, but be stirred until it becomes a leaping flame.

Again, in chapter 4:13-16 he is urged to read, exhort and teach, to meditate and give himself wholly to the work of Christ, and never neglect the gift of God that had been given him ... "for in so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." The Christian whose fire burns incessantly cannot fail to be a soul winner. With unfaltering faith he confidently affirms, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" — the day of death, the day of judgment and through all eternity. Christian, keep your fire stirred up!

Lesson Three

December 3, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH WITNESSING

KEY WORD: Threatened

A strange thing is recorded by Luke in Acts 4:13. Two young fishermen from Galilee, labeled by their accusers as uneducated common men, had been haled before the august Sanhedrin — a court comprised of seventy of the greatest minds in all Jewry — to answer to the charge of healing a lame beggar, then giving the credit to one Jesus of Nazareth. Only a short time prior, this same court had condemned this same Jesus to death by crucifixion, and had seen Him die on a Roman cross. Small wonder that these brilliant scholars were in a confused state of mind!

What should they do with these trouble makers? In a secret session the court decided that, since no crime had really been committed, they could command them to quit their preaching ... or else! And this was no idle threat. Soon Stephen had been martyred and a fierce persecution inaugurated. Those who could escape fled from the city ... but they "went everywhere preaching the word."

A lone thistle plant in a field was destroyed by a whirlwind. The next spring hundreds of thistles grew in that field. So the Jerusalem church, scattered by the whirlwind of persecution, produced many more, "in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The incentive of "unlearned and ignorant" Peter and John came from the fact "that they had been with Jesus." Theirs was not a "milk-toast" message. It was "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth ... neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." They believed in their Commander-in-chief enough to die for Him — and they did — but not one inch would they yield to the enemy.

KEY VERSE: Acts 4:20

"We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

This is a case of divine compulsion. Since the Day of Pentecost, when the Church was born, the blood of martyrs has been its seed. Early church history indicates that for every Christian who gave his life for his faith, many others sprang forward to take his place. By the end of the fourth century A.D. Christianity had become the ruling religion of the Roman Empire, the persecutions ceased, and decay set in. She lost her missionary fire and settled down to be "at ease in Zion."

Just as long as the Church "cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard," and is true to Christ's Word and Will, she will flourish.

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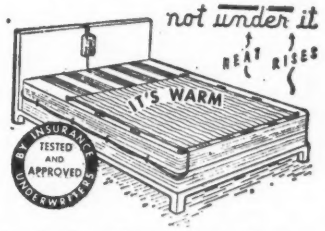

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Failing in that she becomes the Laodicean church, lukewarm, blind, and poverty stricken.

KEY FACT: Our faith not ours to keep

There are many ways to witness for Christ, and each effort results in spiritual growth. A local church asked two young men to do evangelistic calling. They returned with shining faces, actually leaping and shouting with joy, for they had won two souls to Christ. Just try it, church member, and see for yourself!

Lesson Four

December 10, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

KEY WORD: Assured

Timothy was a privileged young man. His father was a Greek, a learned man. His mother and grandmother were both devout women. These wise mothers so led this little one into the green pastures and beside the still waters of the Scriptures that when Paul and Barnabas came preaching the gospel "which can make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," he was ready to accept.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God as an assurance of His great love and power. Through it we learn "to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God," that the man of God may be perfect . . . that is, completely equipped for every good work.

In order to grow spiritually by study of the Bible, it must be used as food for the soul, just as meat, potatoes, and vegetables are eaten to make strong, healthy bodies. When the Bread of Life is accepted as such, it truly satisfies spiritual hunger. It is heavenly food, manna from the hand of the Father.

KEY VERSE: Psalm 119:11

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." The Hebrew word translated "hide" means much more than merely to conceal something from prying eyes. It has the connotation of something extremely valuable which must be carefully guarded. To the lover of God, His Word is a treasure greater than gold or precious gems.

It is said that Martin Luther, the young monk reading the Latin Bible chained to a desk in the monastery, clasped it to his breast crying, "O, if I but had this book I would want no other treasure!" Such hunger for the Word led him to translate it into the German language and make it available for the common people.

However it must be approached with love and submission to God in order for it to become a rich possession. The rulers of Israel indeed searched the Scriptures, but they did not bring open minds and hearts to the search. Jesus called them "fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken," and Paul said of them "that dwell at Jerusalem, and the rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets, which are read every sabbath day, they fulfilled them in condemning him." (Acts 13:27.)

But they that treasure it find it becoming richer each day. Study it, Christian, until its message is engraved on the heart, until every thought and action is directed by its precepts, and every yearning of the soul is based on its promises.

KEY FACT: Spiritual growth depends upon spiritual food

The measure of spiritual growth appears in one's attitudes . . . in the addition of the Christian virtues, in humility of spirit, in thirst for righteousness, in mercy, in purity of thought, in love for others, in likes and dislikes and in the company one keeps. The main thing is to partake unceasingly by communion with God and study of His Word.

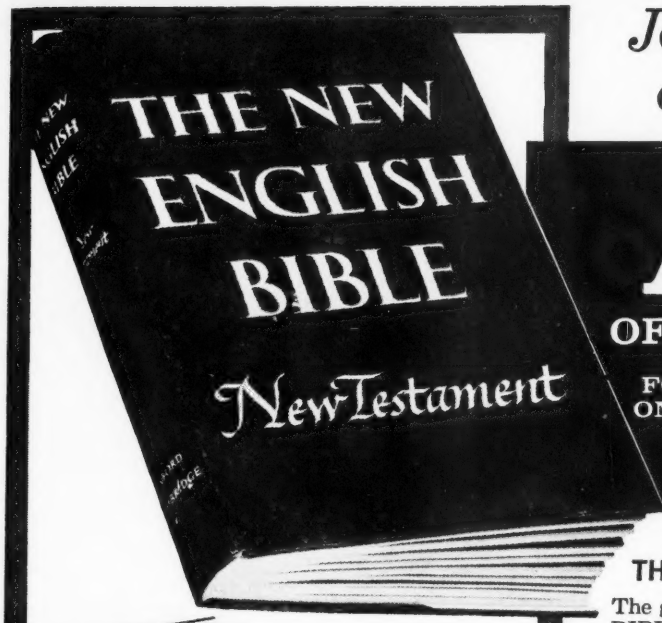
(From page 10)

various religions and ideologies which in one way or another are attempting by force and economic inducements to lead mankind into peace and security.

THANK GOD FOR THE remnant. God has always spared a remnant. We know there are thousands of consecrated and devout Christian men and women in America and Europe today, who would be willing to die for Jesus Christ and His gospel, if they were led into the right way. I know some of them would give every cent they have for the sake of the gospel of their Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed the dynamic force of Christianity which shook the world in the first, second and third centuries, even though dormant is still alive. The true Christianity has not declined; Jesus Christ has not failed us. The smoldering fire is still hidden under the ashes in temples and shrines.

Let us hope for new Christian leaders who will lead the people, not forward into atheism, Communism and materialism, but backward to Jesus Christ and to His gospel. In religion we must go backward — not forward. This is because in material things everything advances from imperfection to perfection, but religion starts perfect. No one can improve on it. The trouble with the Church is this: it has gone too far away from Jesus Christ, the One who, two thousand years ago, denounced the Pharisees and scribes for supplanting God's truth with their own rudimentary traditions.

We too have supplanted His teachings with our own teachings; His ideas with our own ideas and His commands for man-made commands. What the world needs today is the truth and Jesus Christ is truth. The world does not need any new ideologies and philosophies. All of them have been tried out and all have failed again and again, but Christ will never fail those who trust in Him.



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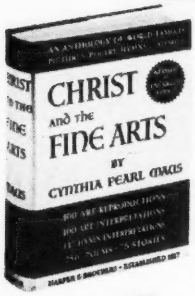

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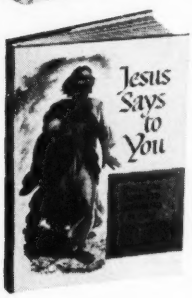

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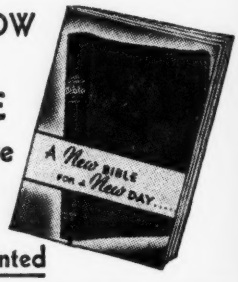

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